

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
December 19, 2011

Deputy Mayor Antonia Moran called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Buchanan Auditorium of the Mansfield Public Library.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Keane, Lindsey, Moran, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro
Excused: Kochenburger, Paterson

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Regional Performance Incentive Program Application

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective December 19, 2011, to authorize the submission of the Regional Performance Incentive Program proposal referenced in Section 5 of Public Act 11-61 (An Act Concerning Responsible Growth). Such proposal is attached to and made part of the record.
Motion passed unanimously.

III. NEW BUSINESS

2. Capital Improvement Program

Town Manager Matt Hart and Director of Finance Cherie Trahan reviewed the components of the Capital Improvement Program and discussed the process used by staff at each stage. Financial Advisor Bill Lindsay explained the types of financing available to the Town, how the debt is structured, and the factors which determine the Town's rating. Mansfield's current rating is AA2. Steps that could be taken to increase that rating include a greater fund balance, an increase in the grand list, and maintaining our current low debt service. Mr. Hart presented some recommendations for Council consideration including designing projects that promote sustainability, resiliency and the quality of life, moving less expensive items with shorter life cycles to the operating budgets, increasing the General Fund support to the Capital Improvement Budget to build an annual base CIP budget, and to begin to build a capital reserve for facility and heavy equipment replacement.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, questioned the need for the grant approved earlier in the meeting and expressed his objections to incurring additional debt.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, stated that no debt should be issued, calling it irresponsible and urged no new taxes be approved.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, questioned the facts contained in the previously approved grant application and stated that this is not the time for feel good projects like the South Eagleville walkway and the proposed playground.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to move into Executive Session to discuss the sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(D). The motion passed unanimously.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(D).

Present: Keane, Lindsey, Moran, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The Council reconvened in regular session

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Antonia Moran, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk